

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00460 311901Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 RSR-01 /088 W

----- 110668

R 311300Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR MILI MZ

SUBJ: SECURITY PROBLEMS IN TETE, MOZAMBIQUE

1. FOR LOURENCO MARQUES: APPRECIATE ARRANGEMENTS YOU MADE FOR ME TO VISIT CABORA BASSA AND TETE CITY BEGINNING OF WEEK. FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS ON SECURITY SITUATION TETE DISTRICT. YOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT AND/OR CORRECT RECORD. TRUST REPORT WILL BE USEFUL FIRST-HAND CURRENT INFORMATION.

2. SUMMARY: ON BASIS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HYDROPROJECT DIRECTOR AND STAFF, MILITARY COMMANDER AND STAFF AT ESTIMA, AND GOVERNOR TETE DISTRICT DURING THREE DAY VISIT (DURING WHICH VACATIONING FAMILY TRAVELING ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE) SNAP CONCLUSIONS ARE: CABORA BASSA ITSELF SECURE, BUT TRANSMISSION LINES MAY PRESENT SERIOUS DEFENSE PROBLEMS; PORTUGUESE IN DEPRESSED MOOD RE MILITARY POSTURE VIS A VIS FRELIMO IN TETE DISTRICT AND MAY BE CASTING ABOUT FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH CHALLENGE, NOTABLY "ISRAELI SOLUTION" (I.E. PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AT REBEL SANCTUARIES).

3. CABORA BASSA -- PHYSICAL SECURITY AT CABORA BASSA IM-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00460 311901Z

PRESSIVE. VISITOR SUBJECTED TO TRIPLE DGS CHECK TO GAIN

ENTRANCE. ONCE IN SONGO LIFE WITHIN DEFENSE PERIMETER AND AT SITE ITSELF APPEARS NORMAL. NO PARTICULAR SIGN OF TENSION OR MILITARY/POLICE PROTECTIVE MEASURES. STAFF EXHIBITS HIGH MORALE AND APPARENT CONFIDENCE WHAT THEY ENGAGED IN (LITERALLY BREATHTAKING VENTURE) WILL LAST AS LONG AS GREAT PYRAMID. GENERAL UNWILLINGNESS AMONG CIVILIANS TO DISCUSS (CONTEMPLATE?) SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH THEY POINT OUT ARE POLICE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN FIRST PERIMETER AND ARMY'S BEYOND. FIRST PERIMETER CONSISTS OF TWO DOUBLE STRAND BARBED WIRE FENCES SEPARATED BY CLEARED STRIP SAID TO BE MINED. BEYOND THAT ARMY PATROLS SEEK TO PREVENT FRELIMO MARKSMEN FROM APPROACHING SITE. NO ANSWER TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER 122 MM ROCKET LAUNCHER FIRED FROM HILLTOPS BEYOND PERIMETER COULD NOT STRIKE TARGET. GREAT STOCK BEING PLACED ON PROTECTIVE NATURE OF HUGE ARTIFICIAL LAKE, WHICH SHOULD START TO FILL UP LATE 1974. STAFF CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY OF TRANSMISSION LINES ONCE INSTALLED. COMMENTS VARIED FROM "IMPOSSIBLE TO PROTECT" TO "MILITARY WILL HAVE TO WORK IT OUT." ACCESS TO SITE BY TARRIED HIGHWAY FROM TETE, THREE HOURS BY HEAVILY ARMED MILITARY CONVOY TWICE DAILY. STAFF CONFIDENT THAT WITH ALTERNATE SURFACE SUPPLY ROUTES TO TETE (RAIL AND HIGHWAY) FRELIMO CANNOT INTERRUPT FLOW OF MATERIALS. FRELIMO NOW HARRASSING RAIL LINE FAIRLY REGULARLY, BUT ROAD UNDER MILITARY CONVOY (FROM VILA PAIVA DE ANDRADE TO TETE) CONSIDERED SECURE.

4. TETE CITY -- THIS IS CERTAINLY LEAST ATTRACTIVE AND LEAST PRODUCTIVE-LOOKING PLACE OF COMPARABLE SIZE I HAVE SEEN IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. FIFTEEN THOUSAND PEOPLE CHOKE ON TETE'S DUST; MOST SHOPKEEPERS ARE FROM INDIAN SUBCONTINENT; MOSQUE (NOT CATHEDRAL, A BUILDING) DOMINATES SCENE; LOCAL NATIVES LIVE IN GREATER APPARENT PRIMITIVE SQUALOR THAN ANY SEEN IN ANGOLA SAVE AROUND PORTO ALEXANDRE.

A. MOOD OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR, PAF COL. MARTINS VIDEIRA, MATCHED DREARY SCENE. UNLIKE HIS ANGOLAN COUNTERPARTS WHO GIVE FAIRLY CONVINCING DISPLAY OF OPTIMISM VIDEIRA DID NOT DISGUISE FACT HE DISCOURAGED BY "DIFFICULT" SITUATION IN TETE. ALDAMENTO PROGRAM HE SAID IS FINE IN THEORY, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO CONTAIN FRELIMO. HE COULD NOT BLAME HANDFUL OF ARMED MILITIAMEN FOR INVARIABLY FLEEING WHENEVER FRELIMO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00460 311901Z

APPROACHES. ON NIGHT AUGUST 26 A LARGE ALDEAMENTO "UP NORTH" HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY FRELIMO MORTAR ATTACK. DEFENSE OF RAIL LINE PROVING TROUBLESOME. MINE HAD BROKEN LINE ON AUGUST 25 NEAR SENA, FURTHEST SOUTH TO DATE.

B. GOVERNOR DID NOT GIVE IMPRESSION HE THOUGHT PORTUGAL'S CAUSE LOST, BUT THAT HE FACES OVERWHELMING DIFFICULTIES AND, WITHOUT SPECIFYING, THAT NEW MEASURES MUST SOON BE TAKEN TO

CONTAIN PROBLEM. SPOKE WELL OF AFRICAN TROOPS WHO NOW OUT-NUMBER WHITES 3 TO 2. REASON FOR RELIANCE ON AFRICANS SIMPLY THAT PORTUGAL CANNOT SUPPLY ENOUGH WHITES FROM METROPOLE OR MOZAMBIQUE.

5. ESTIMA -- LOCATED 10 KM FROM SONGO, BEYOND DEFENSE PERIMETER. MAIN ARMY BASE IN AREA, COMMANDED BY COL. RODRIGO DA SILVEIRA. ALTHOUGH FRELIMO CLAIMED TO HAVE DESTROYED BASE RECENTLY, AND ONE SHELL REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN WITHIN ENCLOSURE, NO SIGN ANY PHYSICAL DAMAGE. SINGLE ALLOUETE III PAF HELICOPTER PARKED OUTSIDE ENCLOSURE IN EXPOSED POSITION WITH NO APPARENT SECURITY. IN FACT, WHOLE BASE HAD UNCONCERNED R AND R LOOK ABOUT IT. SILVEIRA SAID AREA IN FACT NOT "HOT" AT PRESENT.

A. SILVEIRA AND STAFF IN CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT POSSIBLY DWINDLING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF PORTUGAL'S PROBLEMS (E.G., RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN FRG, CATHOLIC CHURCH POSITION AND ACTIVITIES OF HOSTILE CATHOLIC CLERGY) SAID PORTUGAL SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER "ISRAELI SOLUTION" -- I.E., PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST REBEL SANCTUARIES IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. SILVEIRA POINTED OUT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE "BEFORE SITUATION BECOMES DESPERATE FOR US," ESPECIALLY SINCE PORTUGAL WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BEAR HEAVY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM. ALSO DREW PARALLEL BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND VIETNAM, NOTING THAT WHEN US STARTED CARRYING THE WAR TO HANOI, WAR STOPPED. COMMENT: MILITARY CONTACTS IN ANGOLA SO FAR HAVE AVOIDED RAISING WITH ME SUBJECT OF REPRISALS ACROSS BORDERS. NOT KNOWING SILVEIRA I CANNOT JUDGE HOW SERIOUS HIS SPECULATIVE REMARKS MAY HAVE BEEN, OR WHETHER THEY REPRESENTED ONLY HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEW.

6. WIRIAMU MASSACRE -- OBVIOUSLY SUBJECT OF LITTLE LINGER-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LUANDA 00460 311901Z

ING INTEREST, ALTHOUGH NO ONE ATTEMPTED TO DISGUISE BELIEF "SOMETHING" HAD TAKEN PLACE, "INEVITABLE BUT REGRETTABLE IN GUERRILLA WAR." ON MY ARRIVAL TETE IN TRANSIT TO SONGO DGS AT AIRPORT WERE HOLDING NEWLY-ARRIVED SPANISH PRIEST FOR DEPORTATION ON NEXT BEIRA FLIGHT.
BRIGGS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUANDA00460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BRIGGS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973083/aaaaabuj.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY PROBLEMS IN TETE, MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MILI, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005